REMARKS

Claims 27 and 30-33 are present in this application. Claims 1-26, 28, and 29 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter covered by the canceled claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Final Office Action indicates that claims 27 and 30-33 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. Accordingly, claims 27 and 30 have been amended into independent form, with claims 31, 32 and 33 remaining dependent on claim 30.

Section 103(a) – Ueda, Desclos

Claims 1, 3, 5, 10, 13, 21-26, 28, and 29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 7,269,440 (Ueda) in view of U.S. Patent 7,310,536 (Desclos).

Claims 1, 3, 5, 10, 13, 21-26, 28, and 29 have been canceled by this amendment. Thus, the rejection no longer applies.

CONCLUSION

Provided cancellation of the rejected claims, Applicant submits that the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact **Robert Downs** Reg. No. 48,222 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: December 7, 2009   Respectfully submitted,

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